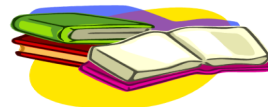


Curriculum & Instruction

UTAH STATE OFFICE
Of
EDUCATION

Curriculum Highlights

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March 2009

Core Projects

The following Instructional Support Project meetings for Language Arts have been scheduled. (All meetings are held from 12-3pm at USOE):

1. March 30: Differentiating Language Arts for ELL
2. April 7: Infusing Literacy in Language Arts
3. April 22: Re-teaching Language Arts
4. May 4: Language Arts and Advanced Learners



Curriculum & Instruction, in cooperation with CTE, is developing a High School Redesign model. Current discussions are addressing the following: The Utah Core Curricula, K-16 alignment, course rigor & relevance, additional high school courses, credit options, graduation requirements, K-16 articulation, alignment between academic expectations and CTE Pathways with on and off ramps, moving from college access to degree success, global technology skills, developing culturally competent students, instructional time, and student motivation.

The USOE Math Steering committee composed of representatives from the State Board of Education, the legislature, higher education, business and industry, local districts, and etc., have been engaged in a year-long examination of Mathematics K-16. The steering committee's work will be informative to the redesign model. We are additionally aware that districts are exploring redesign models. District models will be an important part of our ongoing redesign efforts.

April is Math Awareness Month!

You can participate by:

- Recognizing student achievement in mathematics in your district.
- Recognizing excellent district mathematics teachers.
- Thanking principals and other administrators who support mathematics education in your district.
- Supporting your mathematics teachers as they pursue professional development.
- Visiting the USOE elementary and secondary mathematics websites for current information.

A new K-2 Social Studies Core has been completed. Many talented administrators, teachers, and community members assisted in the development of the document. Preparations are being made to present the new Core to the Board for final approval. We hope to have the Core available for teachers by June, '09.

The Core Academy is again being offered in June and July. Teachers may register online at www.schools.utah.gov/curr/Core_Academy.

USOE is currently in the process of writing a math tutoring program for elementary students. The new tutoring program will be called STAR Math. The program can be used either in a small group setting or on a one-to-one basis.

The following elementary teachers are finalists for the Presidential Awards.

For Math:

Kim Bahr, Alpine; Cynthia Price, Davis; Natalie Robinson, Alpine

For Science: Vickie Ahlstrom, Alpine; Jeri Martin, Wasatch; Marv McBride, Washington

Congratulations!



Utah's Title III: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant students will be involved in a federal monitoring visit during the week of April 27, 2009. Local Education Agencies, through their Alternative Language Services (ALS) Directors, are providing information necessary for the visit. The federal team has selected Washington and Salt Lake City School Districts for on-site visits. District office personnel, private schools personnel, principals, teachers, and parents will be interviewed as a part of this process. A final report of findings will be sent to Utah within 30 days of the visit.

Advanced Placement: The State of Utah has been awarded the Advanced Placement Test Fee grant for this year. The grant reimburses the test fees for low income students. A memo will be sent to every high school in the state outlining the eligibility requirements and the procedures to access the funds. The grant award for this year is \$102,840.

Concurrent Enrollment: The Focus Group is working on gathering best practices in the area of student orientation, students advising, professional development for adjunct staff, and procedures for admission in Concurrent Enrollment. Senate Bill 81 modifies requirement governing concurrent enrollment programs and courses; and the distribution of Concurrent Enrollment appropriations. There will be changes to the master list because Concurrent Enrollment may not include high school courses that are typically offered in grades 9 or 10. The master list will be reviewed and if there are courses that can no longer be offered, you will receive notification.

The revised **Secondary Health Education Core Curriculum** has been completed and is ready for public comment. The National Health Education Standards are imbedded within the document's six standards: instruction in mental and emotional health, fitness and nutrition, drug use and abuse, safety, health promotion and disease prevention, and human sexuality. Also included are strategies for teaching ELL students, clearly defined parameters for human sexuality instruction, skills for addressing dangers with various elements of technology, and appendices with meaningful resources for teachers and parents. The document will be posted on the Health Education website in early April.

April Dates to Remember

8th: IB Meeting at USOE

14th: MESA Public Ed. Com. Meeting at Tooele School District Office

16th: State Literacy Meeting at USOE

16th—18th: State Athletic Admin. In St. George

23rd: Curriculum Directors at Weber District Office

23rd-24th: Principals Literacy at San Juan

24th: Title VII and AI/AN Location TBA

Week of 27th: Federal Title III Audit

28th: Reading Endorsement Committee at USOE in IMC